

## Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0047

JIDDA FOR CODEL PERCY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR ENRG US QA OREP (PERCY, CHARLES)

SUBJECT : AMIR OF QATAR AND OTHER GOQ OFFICIALS CRITICAL OF  
SECRETARY'S "BUSINESS WEEK" INTERVIEW IN CONVER-  
SATIONS WITH SENATOR PERCY

REFS: DOHA 20, 36 AND 46

1. SUMMARY: AMIR OF QATAR'S CRITICAL COMMENTS TO SENATOR PERCY ON SECRETARY'S "BUSINESS WEEK" INTERVIEW HAVE BEEN MADE PUBLIC IN MUTED FORM. OTHER KEY GOQ OFFICIALS HAVE ECHOED AMIR'S CRITICISM OF SECRETARY'S COMMENTS, AND BELIEVE REMARKS ARE PART OF CAREFULLY WORKED OUT STRATEGY WHOSE PURPOSE AND MOTIVATION HAVE CAUSED OFFICIALS PUZZLEMENT AND APPREHENSION. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMMENTS OF GOQ OFFICIALS REFLECT CONTINUING DEEP CONCERN AND APPREHENSION HERE OVER SECRETARY'S REMARKS, SENATOR PERCY'S AND MY EXPLANATIONS NOTWITHSTANDING.

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2. DOHA 46 REPORTED AMIR OF QATAR'S CRITICAL REMARKS ABOUT

SECRETARY'S "BUSINESS WEEK" INTERVIEW DURING JAN 12 CONVERSATION WITH SENATOR PERCY. ON EVENING JAN 12, QATARI RADIO AND TV BROADCAST MINISTRY OF INFORMATION RELEASE ON SENATOR'S MEETING WITH AMIR (SEPTTEL). ACCORDING MININFO RELEASE, "HIS HIGHNESS REFERRED TO THE STATEMENTS WHICH HAVE RECURRED RECENTLY ATTRIBUTED TO THE US SECRETARY OF STATE AS NOT RPT NOT BENEFICIAL TO THE MUTUAL INTERESTS OF THE PRODUCING AND CONSUMING STATES." ON JAN 13 QATARI DAILY "AL ARAB" PUBLISHED MININFO RELEASE ON FRONT PAGE UNDER BANNER HEADLINE "AMIR CONFIRMS THAT KISSINGER'S STATEMENTS DO NOT RPT NOT SERVE CAUSE OF PEACE IN AREA".

3. COMMENT: AMIR TOOK OPPORTUNITY OF PERCY VISIT TO GIVE US HIS DIRECT REACTIONS TO SECRETARY'S "BUSINESS WEEK" INTERVIEW, AND TO MAKE HIS DISPLEASURE PUBLIC. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT HIS PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF DISPLEASURE MUCH MORE MUTED THAN CRITICISMS HE EXPRESSED PRIVATELY TO SENATOR PERCY. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, IT NOT RPT NOT TYPICAL OF AMIR OR GOQ TO GO PUBLIC ON SUCH AN ISSUE. THAT AMIR HAS DONE SO IS ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE OF DEEP CONCERN AND APPREHENSION HERE OVER SECRETARY'S COMMENTS IN "BUSINESS WEEK" INTERVIEW.

4. DURING JAN 12 MEETING WITH AMIR, SENATOR PERCY RESPONDED TO KHALIFA'S CRITICISM OF SECRETARY'S REMARKS BY URGING THAT HE READ TEXT OF INTERVIEW. (IT WAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT AL-THOUGH EMBASSY HAD PROVIDED ENGLISH TEXT ON JAN 7, IT HAD NOT RPT NOT AS YET BEEN FULLY TRANSLATED FOR AMIR.) SENATOR POINTED OUT THAT SECRETARY'S COMMENTS MADE IN RESPONSE TO HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION RE POSSIBLE STRANGULATION OF INDUSTRIAL WORLD BY OIL PRODUCERS, AND POINT MADE THAT SECRETARY DID NOT ENVISAGE SUCH A SITUATION EVER DEVELOPING. SENATOR ALSO EXPLAINED FORD ADMINISTRATION'S DESIRE TO BE OPEN AND FRANK WITH PRESS AND US PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE MOTIVATION FOR SECRETARY'S CANDIDNESS. SENATOR ALSO NOTED FROM HIS OWN EXPERIENCE PROCLIVITY OF NEWSMEN TO INSIST ON ANSWER WHICH LATER BLOWN-UP OUT-OF-CONTEXT.

5. IN CONVERSATIONS LATER ON JAN 12 WITH GOQ OFFICIALS WHO INCLUDED MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PETROLEUM, SHAYKH ABDUL AZIZ (AMIR'S SON), INFORMATION MINISTER KAWARI, AND DR. HASSAN KAMEL, POLITICAL/DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR, "BUSINESS WEEK" INTERVIEW AGAIN CAME CONFIDENTIAL

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UP, AND SECRETARY'S REMARKS AGAIN SUBJECT TO CRITICISM. SENATOR PERCY REITERATED POINTS HE HAD MADE TO AMIR. HOWEVER, ABDUL AZIZ AND KAWARI, WHO SAID THEY HAD READ ENGLISH TEXT AND HAD DIGESTED SENATOR'S AND MY PREVIOUS EXPLANATIONS, INDICATED THAT THESE WERE INCOMPLETE. BOTH MEN INDICATED STRONG BELIEF THAT SECRETARY'S REMARKS WERE NEITHER CHANCE NOR ISOLATED INCIDENT, BUT WERE INSTEAD PART OF CAREFULLY WORKED OUT STRATEGY WHICH MORE TYPICAL OF SECRETARY'S MODUS OPERANDI. THESE

OFFICIALS INDICATED GREAT PUZZLEMENT AND APPREHENSION OVER GOALS AND MOTIVATIONS FO THIS ALLEGED STRATEGY.

6. COMMENT: KAWARI'S AND ABDUL AZIZ'S BELIEF THAT SOME COMPLICATED STRATEGY BEHIND SECRETARY'S REMARKS MAY BE MANIFESTATION OF ARAB CONSPIRACY COMPLEX. HOWEVER, LIKE AMIR'S CRITICISM AND DECISION TO GO PUBLIC WITH IT, THEIR VIEWS REFLECT CONTINUING DEEP CONCERN HERE OVER SECRETARY'S REMARKS. PAGANELLI

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